



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

### Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2008

#### **Council Members & Liaisons Present**

Paul Herrmann (Chair), Joyce Finkelstein (Vice-Chair) Bill Engler, George A. Evanoff, Bernadine Hoffman, Marilyn Johnson, Sharon McKinley, Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Barry Spiker, Rex Critchfield (DES), Jill Harrison (WACOG/AA), Gregg Kiely (DOT), Mary Kitterman (DOI), Ramona Rusinak (DHS), Pam Stevenson (AG's Office), Ms. PJ Schoenstene (AHCCCS)

#### **Council Members and Liaisons Not Present**

Lynn Adler and Kati Bates

#### **Council Staff Present**

Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, Dan Plumhoff, Elsa Gaynor, Sylvia Chuka

#### **Guests Present**

Ms. Dawn Chorzenira, Ms. Valerie Fifield, Ms. Kirti Khalsa, Ms. Virginia Rodriguez

#### **Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes & Chair's Report**

Council Chair Paul Herrmann called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the April 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Marilyn Johnson noted that her name was missing from the April minutes. *Bill Engler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Doyle Meredith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Additionally, Council Chair Paul Herrmann informed the Council members that the September 10 and 11, 2008 Committee and Council meeting dates have been moved to September 4 and 5, 2008, respectively.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

##### ***FY09 State Budget Overview***

Executive Director Melanie Starns provided an update of the FY09 state budget, to include a discussion of both the FY09 \$2 billion revenue shortfall, as well as reporting on how aging services fared in the FY09 budget. Ms. Starns highlighted the Governor's continued commitment to protecting Arizona's vulnerable populations, and she noted that the Governor has worked diligently to ensure that the FY09 budget did not include line item cuts to independent living and community based services. Ms. Starns praised Governor Napolitano, Senate President Bee, Senator O'Halleran, and Representatives Hershberger and Mason for their bi-partisan efforts which ensured that the FY09 budget passed without significant cuts to programs such as

Adult Protective Services, home and community based services, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Additional budget items discussed included:

- The restoration of the \$250,000 cut in FY08 to the state's Lifespan Respite Program
- The protection of Medicare Part D co-pay subsidies for dually eligible seniors
- A \$5.5 million agency wide cut to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), which resulted in a \$300,000 cut to capacity building funds under the Independent Living Support Services program
- A \$1 million cut of the dental care benefits program for AHCCCS clients

Additionally, Ms. Starns noted that the Council will be faced with several difficult budgetary decisions this year, and that several cost-cutting measures are currently being considered by the Council's Executive Committee, including eliminating meeting outside of Phoenix for the annual planning meeting, cutting activities, and limitations to the frequency of Council meetings. Ms. Starns and Mr. Herrmann will continue to work together to resolve. More information will be provided at future meetings.

### ***Speaking Engagements***

Ms. Starns provided the descriptions, locations and times of her speaking engagements and events for the months of July and August, 2008, and of those for Ms. Cathy De Lisa. A copy of Ms. Starns speaking engagements for the months of July and August, 2008, which includes those of Ms. De Lisa, are available through the Council Office.

### ***Improved Travel Reimbursement Process***

Ms. Melanie Starns and Council Chair Paul Herrmann emphasized the necessity of submitting fully completed travel reimbursement forms (including odometer readings, meal receipts, start and end addresses, etc.) to the Council office. Mr. Herrmann noted that he has instructed staff to return any incomplete travel forms to the Council members for completion, rather than trying to track down the information. Staff will begin following this process immediately.

Mr. Dan Plumhoff highlighted the electronic version of form AS-810 now available in the Council office and walked the Council members through the process and options for utilizing the new form. After some discussion, it was determined that the Council members will provide Mr. Plumhoff with electronic signatures in order to eliminate the need for carbon copies (thereby reducing costs), and to expedite the overall reimbursement process. Council members will continue to mail all corresponding receipts and odometer readings to the Council office using the existing white travel detail form.

### **Conference on Aging Closeout**

#### ***Overview/Bottom Line***

Ms. Starns provided an overview of the final costs and revenues for the 2008 Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Conference, along with the number of attendees, etc. She noted that of the 25 conference scholarships made available to the Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state, only 14 were utilized. A copy of Ms. Starns' Conference costs handout is available through the Council Office.

### ***Evaluation results***

Ms. Bernadine Hoffman and Mr. Barry Spiker provided a statistical and general overview of the conference evaluation forms that have been submitted after the 2008 Conference ended. Ms. Hoffman noted that she was quite pleased with the feedback that she received, but that she thinks the Council should reevaluate the format used for the evaluation sheets themselves. Mr. Spiker discussed the statistics that he is compiling, and he also noted his satisfaction with the type of feedback received. Chair Paul Herrmann thanked Ms. Hoffman and Mr. Spiker for their coordination and compilation of the conference evaluation forms. Copies of Ms. Hoffman's evaluation handouts are available through the Council office.

### ***Staff Appreciation***

Council Chair Paul Herrmann recognized the Governor's Office on Aging staff members, and expressed the Council's gratitude for the work that they put forth in order to make the 2008 Conference a success.

## **Committee Reports and Voting on Committee Motions**

### ***Executive Committee***

Council Chair Paul Herrmann reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the Council's by-laws, and discussed the current timelines in place for the appointments of new Committee Chairs. Mr. Herrmann stated that the Executive Committee has determined that new Committee Chair appointments will coincide with the state fiscal year (as opposed to the calendar year) so that outgoing Committee Chairs will have the opportunity to mentor incoming Chairs, and allow those new Committee Chairs to have transitioned into their roles for the annual planning meetings. As neither the Council by-laws nor state statute specify the dates for Committee Chair appointments, no amendments are needed.

### ***Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee***

Committee Chair Sharon McKinley provided a brief overview of the dental presentation delivered to the Legislative Policy Coordinating Committee at the July 10, 2008 meeting by Dr. Leon Wachtel of Prescott. Ms. McKinley noted that Dr. Wachtel's presentation was inspirational, and stated that Dr. Wachtel is an exceptional humanitarian. Ms. McKinley also reported that the Committee has passed a motion to shift the dental care initiative to the Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee as a possible new direction for that Committee to pursue if they are so inclined. Additionally, Ms. McKinley cited that such a shift seems logical and natural, as the Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee would be well suited to review the dental care portion and bring back their "program" based findings to the Legislative Policy Coordinating Committee for continued advocacy within a policy oriented capacity.

### ***Mature Workforce Committee***

Committee Chair George Evanoff reported that the Mature Workforce Committee held a very active meeting on July 10, 2008, and that the Committee discussed possible new directions and initiatives. Additionally, Mr. Evanoff stated that Mature Worker (MW) Friendly Employer Certification Program has received 51 applications thus far, and that the Committee is in the process of determining the logistics and staffing of that program. No motions or special

announcements were made, and Mr. Evanoff noted that the Mature Workforce Committee is very much looking towards the future.

### ***Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee***

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith reported that the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee has launched two successful initiatives in the Arizona Caregiver Coalition and the Falls Prevention Coalition, which have now taken on lives of their own. Additionally, Mr. Meredith provided an overview of the Committee's July 10, 2008 meeting, and he noted that the Committee has discussed three possible new initiatives to pursue:

- Affordable Dental Care
- Hearing Loss
- Depression / Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse

Mr. Meredith stated that the Committee will be collecting information on these three possible initiatives, so that they can deliberate, prioritize and possibly recommend the future committee initiative at the September 4, 2008 Committee meeting.

### **Break**

The Council recessed for a 15 minute break at 10:15 a.m.

### **Development of Communications Plan**

Ms. Starns and Mr. Dan Plumhoff provided an overview of possible directions and steps to be taken in order to develop and implement a Strategic Communications Plan for the Governor's Office on Aging and the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. A discussion ensued, and the Council members agreed to submit any ideas and contribute any senior media contacts that they have to Mr. Plumhoff, so that he may prepare a draft plan for the September 5, 2008 Council Meeting, and he in turn will email the instructions and the spreadsheets to the Council Members and Liaisons. Copies of Mr. Plumhoff's Strategic Communications Plan outline, Senior Media Data Base spreadsheet, and the corresponding instructional handout for entering data into the Senior Media Database are available through the Council office.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### ***AHCCCS***

Ms. PJ Schoenstene provided an overview of ALTCS enrollment within Arizona, and briefed the Council on the following AHCCCS budget items:

- The AHCCCS \$1M dental benefit was not funded in the FY09 state budget
- The SSDI medical program was not funded in the FY09 state budget, but the program itself remains intact
- Kids Care parents are now covered by law through a cost-sharing program.
- Specific patient capitation rates were frozen due to the FY09 state budget

Ms. Schoenstene noted that AHCCCS is currently examining additional ways to alleviate their overall budget cuts.

***Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (A4A)***

Ms. Jill Harrison of the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging thanked the Council, Ms. Starns, and Mr. Rex Critchfield for their continued advocacy on behalf of seniors and the Area Agencies on Aging during the FY09 budget cycle, and asked that the Council members thank all of the public servants within their individual areas who worked so diligently to keep senior services safe from budget cuts at the local level during this legislative session. Ms. Starns offered to provide the Council members with Council letterhead so that they may draft thank you letters to those individual officials in their areas, and Ms. Harrison offered to assist in identifying and gathering contact information for those individuals as needed.

***Department of Health Services (DHS)***

Ms. Ramona Rusinak of the Arizona Department of Health Services reported that her agency has taken nearly \$10 million in agency wide cuts for current fiscal year, which will impact long term care surveying and where people can access public health services. Specific line item cuts included those to public health centers throughout the state. Additionally, Ms. Rusinak emphasized the necessity of maintaining access to services despite budget cuts, and the need to educate the general public on preventative health care methods, including those related to communicable diseases, immunizations, and vaccinations. Ms. Rusinak also noted that Ms. Susan Gerard has resigned as the Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, and that Ms. January Contreras has been appointed as the Acting Director of that agency, effective August 1, 2008.

***Department of Economic Security (DES)***

Mr. Rex Critchfield, Assistant Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) in DES, reported that the DES Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) received \$2.4 million in funding for their caseload and capitation rate. Additional budget items included:

- A \$4.8 million increase to the Division of Medical Benefits and Eligibility (DBME) for additional case workers and to expedite the timeline for the application process
- A \$300k reduction in capacity building funds to Area Agencies on Aging (from Independent Living Support Services program)
- A \$53k cut to DAAS 's operational funds

Mr. Critchfield also noted that DAAS expects an additional \$7k cut in order to cover the vacancy savings cuts that have been requested of all state agencies.

***Arizona Department of Transportation (AZDOT)***

Mr. Gregg Kiely of the Arizona Department of Transportation reported that his agency has submitted a \$4.5 million federal grant application to fund the following programs:

- Section 5310 - FTA Elderly Individuals & Individuals with Disabilities Program, a regionally based program serving senior's transportation needs.

- Section 5316 - Job Access – Reverse Commute or “JARC”, a program providing “transportation to work activities for welfare, low-income un-and-under employed” individuals.
- Section 5317 – New Freedom, a program designed to enhance accessibility for the needs of all disabled individuals, regardless of age.

Furthermore, Mr. Kiely indicated that the required local match on these funds will be an issue to grant recipients. Additionally, Mr. Kiely stated that the Arizona Rides program will “sunset” in December of 2008 if not renewed, and that discussions regarding the specifics of the Local Transportation Assistance Fund (LTAF II) are ongoing. Mr. Kiely noted that the Council should be aware of the Governor’s transportation ballot initiative for the fall 2008 elections, as it contains a significant component which has the potential to impact several senior and special needs programs (positively).

#### ***Attorney General’s Office (AG)***

Ms. Pam Stevenson of the AG’s Office reported that her office is also absorbing budget cuts for FY09, including cuts to staffing. She also noted that the bill pertaining to credit freezes that her office tracked throughout the legislative session passed, and will be put into law on September 1, 2008. Additionally, Ms. Stevenson noted that her office is tracking the Pay Day Loan Reform initiative on the fall 2008 ballot, and that the pay day loan industry spent over \$750k to hire professional signature collectors in order to get the item onto the ballot. Ms. Stevenson also stated that the AG’s Office is currently working in partnership with local media to establish a voluntary “silver alert” program in Arizona (a program for seniors similar to the ‘Amber Alert’ system used to locate missing minors. The new endeavor is modeled after the State of Utah’s Endangered Persons Advisory project), and that the first Committee meeting of that coalition is set to meet on July 14, 2008.

#### ***Department of Insurance (DOI)***

Ms. Mary Kitterman of the Arizona Department of Insurance (attending on behalf of Ms. Erin Klug) stated that her agency has lost three staff members due to FY09 budget cuts, and that a bill was passed this legislative session which amends Long Term Care insurance training requirements among licensed contractors. The bill will go into effect in July, 2009. She also announced that she has been helping with training of staff in the Tucson office which will handle complaints as well as other functions.

#### **Lunch**

The Council recessed for lunch at 11:46 a.m. for approximately 36 minutes.

#### **Guest Presentation**

Ms. Ramona Rusinak (DHS) and Ms. Virginia Rodriguez of Yavapai County Community Health Services provided overviews of both the Arizona Department of Health Service’s “Arizona Living Well,” and the Yavapai County Community Health Service’s “Evidence Based Programs.” Copies of Ms. Rusinak’s and Ms. Rodriguez’s presentational handouts are available through the Council office.

#### **Updates/New Business/Announcements**

There were no updates, new business or announcements.

### **Call to the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

### **Action Items**

- The Council members will provide Mr. Plumhoff with electronic signatures in order to eliminate the need for carbon copies, and to expedite the overall reimbursement process.
- The Council will revise the current timeline for the appointment of Committee Chairs to coincide with the state fiscal year (as opposed to the calendar year) so that outgoing Committee Chairs will have the opportunity to mentor incoming Chairs, and allow those new Committee Chairs to have transitioned into their roles for the annual planning meetings.
- The Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee will collect information on the three possible initiatives of Affordable Dental Care, Hearing Loss, and Depression/Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse, so that they can deliberate and make an informed recommendation to the Council on Aging about the future initiative(s) of the Committee.
- Council members will submit any ideas for the Governor's Office on Aging and the Council's Strategic Communications Plan and contribute any senior media contacts that they have to Mr. Plumhoff, so that he may prepare a draft plan for the September 5, 2008 Council Meeting. Mr. Plumhoff will email a copy of the instructions and spreadsheet to the Council for use in submitting ideas and feedback.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Council Chair Paul Herrmann at 1:08 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be Friday, September 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.